

Land Registration for Conquering New SDG Frontiers

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SUMMARY

Land occupants pursue first registration to improve their security of tenure, where they perceive benefits would accrue from this status or, at least, where they perceive that negative impacts of their current status would reduce. States pursue land registration to improve their land management and the attainment of social, economic and environmental goals for the population as a whole. It is stated that that citizens must demand land registration or states should not invest in the process. In the absence of a state supported land registration process, indicators must point to a demand for the process to be instituted. The rate of voluntary first registration can indicate the level of need for security of tenure as well as the ability of the citizen to fund their desire for security.

A case study of the current location and number of applications for first registration in Trinidad and Tobago leads to a discussion and an awareness of the need for land registration. The data used was taken from databases of applications for occupation surveys at the cadastral mapping agency as well as applications for legal consideration and registration at the separated land registry.

It was found that applications for first registration were at an extremely low level and centred in rural environments.

This analysis can spur the state to introduce, redirect, or focus its attention on a land registration programme for specific areas and using specific mechanisms, given current global questions and research regarding land registration and its potential outcomes related to the SDGs.